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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

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SUBJECT Relations Between the Soviets and the
Rumanian Population

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1. Practically no relations exist between the Soviets and the local population, because of strict orders on the subject. Apparently these orders are particularly strict for Soviet soldiers because the latter observe them with particular care. Occasional contacts between Rumanians and Soviet soldiers are rare and are accompanied with great precautions. This situation of deliberate isolation does not tend to create any sympathy toward the Soviets on the part of the Rumanian population. The fact that the Soviets, both civilian and military, receive an absolutely privileged treatment tends to accentuate this detachment if not a latent sentiment of antipathy. Moreover, the realization of the systematic plundering of products by Russia helps to maintain an atmosphere of hostility, which is encountered in almost all circles. The famous parades and demonstrations, in which thousands of citizens and workers participate and during which official manifestations of friendship toward Russia and the Communist Regime are generally made, do not have the slightest element of spontaneity. To give one an idea of the significance of the processions, with display of posters, photographs, and flags, it is sufficient to note that failure to participate in these demonstrations means the certainty of very severe punishment. Political control over the masses of the citizens is constant, and in the event of political manifestations of any kind the participants are always noted and called to account. The Soviets in Rumania practically live in a condition of absolute isolation from the local environment; for the necessities of their normal life they must customarily provide themselves with a complete organization which renders them independent of the rest of the population. In the case of soldiers, especially in areas where they are numerous, really isolated sectors are being created to which admittance is forbidden and in which the Soviets live their lives completely apart from their surrounding environment. The same is also true of Soviet civilians, even if accompanied (as is frequently the case) by their families. These families are always supplied by the same Soviet organization and never have contact with Rumanian civilian organizations.
2. The State radio factory Radio Popular, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electrification, manufactures only sets which can receive medium and long wave lengths, with the exclusion of short waves. This is done for the purpose of preventing people from listening to so-called

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"imperialist" stations. The only radio sets capable of receiving short-wave broadcasts are those which already existed before the Communist Regime and the war; there was practically no importing of radios during the war itself. In spite of the very frequent rumors that have circulated, these short-wave sets have never been confiscated; however, it is quite obvious that they will eventually be exhausted, since there is no possibility of obtaining material or replacement parts in case of breakdowns. The voice of the Western world is listened to with the greatest interest and with very great caution through these radio sets, which in many cases are still in the possession of civilians. The so-called Voice of America, Free Europe, and the Madrid station are listened to. The content of these broadcasts frequently makes the rounds among persons who consider one another sufficiently trustworthy to be able to admit having heard a certain piece of news. In general, all information which refers to the danger or possibility of war is disseminated with particular rapidity, because a good part of the population sees its only hope for the future in this possibility. It may be said that many persons continue to live only by virtue of this carefully nourished hope. However, even with medium-wave sets it is possible to listen to the Ankara station, which is done very frequently; this station has now acquired the reputation of being very well informed on the smallest details of Rumanian life. The Ankara station very often broadcasts news and revelations of a scandalous nature on various personalities of the Communist Regime; such news is especially appreciated and enjoyed by the population, which gladly listens to the impartial and violent language employed by Radio Ankara. This secret listening greatly annoys the Rumanian Communist authorities, who have not succeeded in preventing it. No law forbidding such listening exists and none has ever been issued, because it is believed that it would have an effect opposite to that desired. However, very frequently there are cases (and these are cited by the authorities as instructive examples) in which persons are imprisoned and sentenced for "hostility and anti-government political activity" as a result of denunciation by neighbors or enemies.

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